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C.E.T. TO BE CONDUCTED IN LAST WEEK OF AUGUST

The Karnataka Common Entrance Test for engineering courses is scheduled to be conducted on August 28 and 29

EACH SUBJECT TO CARRY 60 MARKS

Deputy Chief Minister and Higher Education Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said, "Each subject will carry 60 marks." For candidates staying in border areas, the CET will be held on August 30, the Deputy Chief Minister added. While the Maths and Biology exams will be held on the first day, Physics and Chemistry are scheduled for the second day | P7

ADMITTING BSc STUDENTS THROUGH CET

- The government is contemplating admission for BSc degree courses through CET
- Students have to score minimum marks to clear the entrance test, while PUC marks will not be taken into account
- PU II students to be promoted without having to write exams

June 15
WHEN THE REGISTRATION STARTS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

States empowered to prioritise age groups for jabs

Walk-in registrations allowed for all age groups starting June 21; Centre urges people to go to private vax centres if they can afford to pay

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

A day after the Centre rolled back its controversial Covid-19 vaccination policy and decided to procure 75% of the total doses in India for all adults, it said it will continue to prioritise highly vulnerable sections for the inoculation drive.

But it allowed states to decide their prioritisation within the 18-44 age group, after factoring in the vaccine supply.

For the Union government, the priority population groups include healthcare and frontline workers, those above 45 years of age and beneficiaries whose second dose is due. The 18-44 group is last on its pecking order.

The revised policy that will come into play from June 21, also provides the option of onsite registration at all government and private vaccination centres for all age groups, apart from advance booking on the CoWIN portal.

The four-page document said vaccine doses will be provided to states based on factors like population, disease burden and the progress of vaccination, also warning that wastage of vaccine will affect the allocation negatively.

COVAXIN DOSE COSTLIEST AT PVT HOSPITALS

Vaccine	Price per dose as declared by manufacturer (₹)*	GST@ 5% (₹)	Maximum service charge per dose, inclusive of all taxes (₹)	Maximum price that can be charged by private hospitals (₹)
COVISHIELD	600	30	150	780
COVAXIN	1,200	60	150	1,410
SPUTNIK V	948	47.40	150	1,145

Note: These rates will be effective from June 21

Some experts saw in the latest advisory an underlying message that vaccines in government hospitals should continue to be given to the high priority population till their full vaccination coverage is achieved. "And that I think is a pragmatic thing to do," said health systems specialist Chandrakant Lahariya.

"In fact, I would have preferred if the vaccination for the 18-44 age group had been put on hold till the rest of the adult population is completely covered and the vaccine supply issue fixed. That would have really streamlined the Covid inoculation process," Lahariya added.

The Centre also urged people who have the ability to pay, to take their jabs at private hospitals. Besides, it defended its decision to allow private hospitals to keep procuring 25% of the total Covid vaccines. "In order to incentivize production by vaccine manufacturers and encourage new vaccines, domestic vaccine manufacturers are given the option to also provide vaccines directly to private hospitals," it said.

It said states need to aggregate the demand of private hospitals keeping in view equitable distribution between large and small private hospitals and regional balance, based on which the Union government will facilitate supply to the private hospitals and their payment through the National Health Authority's e-platform. "This would enable the smaller and remote private hospitals to obtain timely supply of vaccines, and further equitable access and regional balance," the Centre said. P9

DISTRESS SIGNALS

The economy is bearing the brunt of the pandemic. Here's a look

AUTO-DEBIT PAYMENT FAILURES

Out of **85.7 million** auto-debit transactions attempted in May, **30.8 million** (36%) failed

In April, out of **85.4 million** such transactions initiated, **29.08 million** (34%) failed

BANK CREDIT

Bank credit growth hits 59-year low of

5.56%

In 2020-21. It is expected to fall this year, too, with corporates deleveraging by repaying high-cost loans through funds raised via bond issuances

The credit availed by the Indian textiles and apparels industry fell 20% year-on-year to ₹1.62 lakh crore as of December 2020. This was mainly due to suspension of manufacturing activities in the immediate aftermath of Covid-19 lockdown last year, says the SIDBI-CRIF joint report

The number of active loans from the texiles sector stood at

4.26 lakh

as of December 2020

VRS coming for public sector banks, Air India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Centre will soon announce a special voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) for the employees of public-sector banks as well as Air India, finance ministry sources said. The decision follows the Niti Aayog's recommendation to this effect, the sources added.

"VRS is under discussion. The Niti Aayog gave similar recommendations for Air India and a state-run insurance company, ahead of their privatisation drive. Many of them are over-staffed. Short manpower makes them more attractive and easier for the change of management," a senior FinMin official told *TNIE*. The government will make the VRS package attractive so that it encourages the employees to go for it, the official added. P12

IISc TOP RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN WORLD, REVEALS RANKING

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is the world's top research university under the research impact parameter, the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2022 has revealed. It has achieved the distinction with a perfect 100/100 score on Citations per Faculty (CPF), which is a measure of research impact.

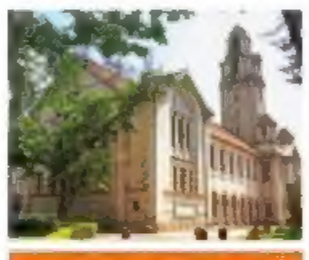
It is in the same league as Princeton, Havard and even Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), all of whom have got the perfect score. The report, released late on Tuesday night, ranked universities on six parameters and CPF is one of them.

Among Indian institutes, IIT Guwahati (94.8/100) came second with a global ranking of 41 on CPF, while IIT Roorkee came third with a score of 88.8 per cent and a ranking of 62.

CPF is the total number of citations received by research papers in a university over a five-year period divided by the number of faculty at an institution, said Simona Bizzozero, Director of Communications, QS.

The ranking body found that Indian universities have improved their research impact as 17 of India's 35 top universities have seen a rise in CPF scores, while 12 have witnessed a drop.

The report reveals that Indian universities continue to struggle with QS' measure of institutional teaching capacity, which is another of the six parameters. Twenty-three of 35 universities have suffered declines under the parameter of Faculty/Student Ratio indicator, with only six recording an improvement. No Indian university ranks among the top 250 in this parameter. P2



QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2022

Top-3 Indian Institutes

177) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)

185) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)

186) Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore

Global Top-3 ranks

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

University of Oxford

Stanford University / University of Cambridge

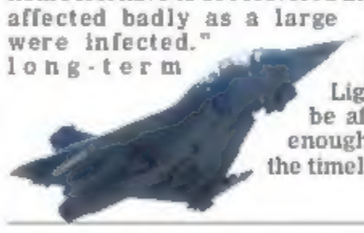
Covid-19 hits HAL: 100 dead, projects affected

RAMU PATIL @ Bengaluru

THE defence public sector undertaking Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been hit badly by Covid-19, which has claimed the lives of at least 100 of its employees, infected 4,000 others, and impacted crucial defence projects, like the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and Light Combat Helicopter (LCH).

Over 450 vendors are involved in the LCA project and if the work outside is hit, it will also affect the project at the PSU. In the financial year 2020-21, HAL secured the largest-ever defence contract for an Indian company to manufacture 83 LCA MK-IAs. In the first two months of the first quarter of 2021-22, around Rs 1,200 crore worth of revenue from sales was lost as the PSU could not deliver products as planned because of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

HAL Chairman and Managing Director R Madhavan said, "Once deliveries happen, maybe the sales will recover. Man hours lost have to be recovered through extra effort. We were affected badly as a large number of our employees were infected." But, Madhavan said, the long-term project performance of Light Combat Aircraft will not be affected as they will have enough time to recover and meet the timelines.



CONTINUED ON: P7

NATIONWIDE	JUNE 7	JUNE 8
Fresh cases	1,00,636	86,498
Recoveries	1,74,399	1,82,282
Deaths	2,427	2,123

JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
June 7 **31,04,989 doses**
June 8 **25,58,652 doses**
TOTAL DOSES: 23,58,40,639

After weeks, new Covid cases below 10K in State

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AFTER 56 days, the daily Covid caseload fell below the 10,000 mark in Karnataka. The last time the State witnessed such a figure was on April 13 when 8,778 new cases were reported. On June 8, the cases dipped to 9,808. The positivity rate remained the same as the day before at 8.80 per cent and the total cases rose to 27,17,289.

Though the daily deaths were reduced to 179, this is the same as the highest daily deaths reported in the first wave on September 18, 2020. However, this is still quite a reduction from June 7 when 340 deaths were reported. The mortality rate increased from 1.17 percent to 1.18 percent.

In good news, 23,449 discharges took the total recoveries to 24,60,165 and the recovery rate increased from 89.99 percent to 90.53 percent.

The daily cases reported from Bengaluru have been falling consistently, although there was an increase observed from Monday when 1,992 cases were recorded to Tuesday when 2,028 cases were reported.

CONTINUED ON: P4

KARNATAKA	JUNE 7	JUNE 8
Fresh cases	11,958	9,808
Recoveries	27,299	23,449
Deaths	340	179

'Wasn't meeting Nawaz': Uddhav on his talks with Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi to discuss a range of issues from Maratha quota to reservations in promotion and GST compensation. He had along with him Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Congress minister Ashok Chavan. But the juicy political talking point was his one-on-one meeting later with Modi.

Responding to a question on the one-on-one, Thackeray said: "There is nothing wrong to meet (Modi) one-on-one. I had not gone to meet (former Pakistan Prime minister) Nawaz Sharif. What is wrong if I have to meet him personally (one-on-one)?" He said during the last one year, there have been various instances when he had such conversations with Modi, adding, "Today, politically we are not with them but that does not mean our relationship has ended."

Thackeray described the overall discussions as cordial. "It was a cordial discussion, keeping politics aside. We discussed various issues with the PM," he said.

Was China ready with vaccine before the pandemic? Virologist feels so

CHETANA BELAGERE & NIRAD MUDUR @ Bengaluru

WHILE opinions are building in favour of the Wuhan Laboratory-origin theory of SARS-CoV-2 virus that triggered a pandemic, killing 37.54 lakh people and infecting 17.44 crore worldwide, an eminent Indian virologist has raised the flag on the possibility of China having developed the vaccine in advance to be prepared in case of the virus outbreak or a leak -- an indicator of the deadly virus being engineered in the lab.

This could have helped that country curtail the spread right from the early days. China, with the largest population in the world at 140 crore, recorded just 91,300 Covid-positive cases and 4,636 deaths since December 2019. It is ranked 98 on the list of countries in the order of cases recorded, he said.

The virologist, Dr T Jacob John, former professor & head of department of Clinical Virology, Christian Medical College, Vellore, said, "There are some mysteries about the Chinese episode (the suspected leak from the Wuhan Institute of Virology). China's Covid-19 pandemic was unique in the world. That means they are hiding something... or they are different...or China had prepared for this in advance. Everything is not what meets the eye."

China's Covid-19 pandemic was unique in the world. That means they are hiding something... or they are different...or China had prepared for this in advance.

Dr T Jacob John, former professor & head of department of Clinical Virology, Christian Medical College, Vellore

He cited the example of a young Chinese scientist applying for a licence for SARS-CoV-2 vaccine "as early as February 24, 2020", just two months after the pandemic broke out. "It is far too early to work on a vaccine in just two months. They must have started at least a year earlier," said Dr John.

"That young man (the scientist) is dead. There are too many loose ends. China seems to be covering up something, just like any criminal would cover up."

CONTINUED ON: P4

EXPRESS READ

Anup Chandra appointed new Election Commissioner

New Delhi: Former Uttar Pradesh chief secretary Anup Chandra Pandey has been appointed as an election commissioner. With this, the Election Commission will have the full strength of three members.

Senior BJP MLA and former minister C M Udasi dies

BENGALURU: Senior BJP MLA and former minister C M Udasi died on Tuesday at a private hospital here due to age-related illness. He was 85 and is survived by his wife and son Shivakumar Udasi, who is a BJP MP. P7

Fresh to home
Mid-Week Magic!
Just the offers you need to perk up your week!
CHICKEN (Curry Cut) ₹99/500g
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PRAWNS ₹249/500g
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*GST applicable
TANDOORI BAASA FILLETS ₹199/Pack (Ready-To-Cook)
*GST applicable
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100+ Quality Checks
No Antibiotic Residue
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